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The Daily Courant.

Wedneſday, December 29 1703

Baſil, December 27.

THE Memorial of Monſieur de Mellarede, Envoy of Savoy, which he read in the General Aſſembly of the Cantons at Baden on the 14th inſtant, and afterwards deliver'd to them in Writing, is as follows.

Moſt Illuſtrious and moſt Puiſſant Lords,

ALL Soveraign Potentates muſt needs have ſo lively a Senſe of the Violence done by the King of France to the Duke my Maſter, that I forbear to wound your Ears by reciting too particularly in what manner the Troops his Royal Highneſs had in the Service of the 2 Crowns were diſarm'd, and what urgent Orders the moſt Chriſtian King ſent his own Forces to invade his Royal Highneſs's Dominions: I fear I ſhould be thought to call your Underſtandings in doubt, ſhould I offer ſeriouſly to prove to you, that the Deſign of this hard Treatment of his Royal Highneſs, was to conſtrain him to yield up his Territories on this ſide the Alps to France, (ſeeing he could not be wrought upon to part with them quietly by a Treaty,) and to ſubmit blindly to whatever the moſt Chriſtian King ſhould demand of him. Theſe, Moſt Illuſtrious and moſt Puiſſant Lords, are Truths which the Marqueſs de Puiſieux would carefully conceal from you, and yet he alledges nothing in Juſtification of ſuch an unheard of Violence, but Suſpicions that have no ground; which very Suſpicions would not have given the leaſt Uneaſineſs to any Potentate that has no Ambition to trample upon his neighbouring Soveraigns, and conſequently does not ſeek Pretences to compaſs ſuch Ends. You are too clear-ſighted, Moſt Illuſtrious and moſt Puiſſant Lords, too tenacious of your Liberty and Soveraignty, not to have conſider'd this Proceeding of the moſt Chriſtian King to be a politick Touchſtone to try how you and all Soveraigns that have Men in his Service, or have the Misfortune to be his Neighbours, would reſent the Indignity put upon his Royal Highneſs my Maſter; that he may gueſs another time by their Behaviour now, what weight of ill Uſage he may venture to lay upon them. If you look upon this Violence with an Eye of Indifference, he will take it for granted that he may lawfully treat all Potentates that have Troops in his Pay in no better a manner; and to have an Alliance with him, will give him an indiſputable Right to annex the Territories of his Allies to his own; as his Miniſters have had the Aſſurance to tell the World publickly. You well know that Monſieur de Phelipeaux his Ambaſſador gave no other Reaſon for diſarming his Royal Highneſs's Troops, than that they were in his Maſter's Pay. Can you promiſe your ſelves that France will have greater Conſideration for you than for my Maſter, when he ſees a fair Opportunity? The Alliance between you and that Crown are not of ſo long ſtanding, as thoſe that for 600 Years and upwards have kept up Union between it and the Royal Houſe of Savoy. Now if the moſt Chriſtian King has no conſideration for a Prince whoſe Blood has ſo often been mix'd with his, by a great number of Intermarriages, what may not you fear who are not ſo cloſely ty'd to him, not by half ſo many endearing Bands? Your Treaties will be broken through as eaſily as Cobwebs, if once he have the Fortune to conquer your Neighbours, and to environ you on all ſides, as he intends, and as he is actually doing by degrees, tho' he endeavours by his fine Promiſes to caſt a Miſt before your Eyes, while his Agents with all their Art cover his Deſigns, till his Arms have wholly ſurrounded you. In vain will you then have recourſe to your Treaties, you will then be compell'd either to ſubmit to the Condition of thoſe Countries whoſe Unhappineſs it is to be ſo fatally ſituated; (look on Lorrain and your own Eyes will tell you what that Condition is,) or, if you have too much Reſolution and Courage to ſtoop to that, you muſt expoſe your Lives and all you value to the Hazard and Rage of War; which is juſt the Caſe of his Royal Highneſs my Maſter. Your Troops in his Service ſhall be diſarm'd in the firſt place, and you ſhall have no other Reaſon given you for it, than that there were ſome Suſpicions ſome Umbrage taken againſt you, which Suſpicions the Miniſters of France cannot be at a loſs to find or make, whenever their Maſter (whoſe Ambition has no other Bounds but what limits the Earth,) is minded to enlarge his Dominion. I am perſwaded, moſt Illuſtrious and moſt Puiſſant Lords, that you have duely reflected on the Dangers that are too ſurely coming upon you, unleſs you ſecure your ſelves by a timely Precaution. Your Penetration is too good, not to forewarn you of the Condition you would fall into ſhould you ſuffer this Potentate to hem you in on e[illegible] ſide: Otherwiſe, I would intreat you to look back upon the State Maxims of your glorious Anceſtors, that you might ſee how extreamly careful the, were to have ſeveral Neighbours, to how many Dangers they expos'd themſelves, and how profuſe they were of their Blood to gain that Point, and ſettle on ſo ſolid a Foundation the Soveraignty and Liberty they left you. All their Politicks center'd in this, from which you can never depart, without expoſing your Country to the Calamities from which they fenc'd it, by taking care that no over-great Potentate border'd too cloſe upon them. It was this that induc'd them to comprize Savoy in the perpetual Peace they made with France; They ſaw their Safety then, as yours does now, depended on that of their Neighbourhood: Thus they kept that Power at a diſtance, which the nearer it has approach'd to you, and the more it has ſurrounded you, has proportionably treated you with leſs and leſs Reſpect.

I aſſure my ſelf, Moſt Illuſtrious and moſt Puiſſant Lords, that you will not unconcern'd ſee a Prince your Neighbour oppreſs'd, and that you will not refuſe him Succours, to enable him to defend his Country againſt the Arms of France: 'Tis what I requeſt of the whole Helvetick Body, and is in all reſpects conſonant to the firm and inviolable Friendſhip profeſs'd between you and your Neighbours, and to the Intereſt you have in the Preſervation of a Country lying ſo near you as does that part of my Maſter's Dominions which is on this ſide the Alps. Nor is this inconſiſtent with the Alliance between you and France, I am not urging you to break that Alliance, but to protect Savoy, which your Anceſtors thought good for their own Safety to include in the Treaty

of

of perpetual Peace; with regard to which, his Royal Highneſs is ready to enter into any Expedients proper for ſecuring your Frontiers and Tranquility on the ſide of Savoy. The Confidence his Royal Highneſs has in the Laudable Helvetick Body, the good Intelligence there always was between his Crown and this Warlike Nation, their own Intereſt, and their Love of Liberty and Soveraignty, are moſt powerful Motives to the Laudable Swiſs Cantons to take Reſolutions on this Occaſion, worthy of themſelves and the Fame of their Anceſtors. Time is precious, the Danger is preſent; if you would ſecure to your Poſterity the Liberty your Forefathers gain'd and bequeath'd to you, you muſt ſet about the proper Means without delay.

I forbear taking notice of the Alliance that is between his Royal Highneſs my Maſter and the Laudable Catholick Cantons, intending on that Subject to addreſs my ſelf to themſelves ſeparately, not doubting but they are diſpos'd to perform their Part. I beg of God to grant the Laudable Helvetick Body abundant Proſperity in all things, &c.

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